

# Town Meeting Guide



2022 Town Warrant  
2022-23 Proposed Budget

*Town of Merrimack, NH*

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>Town Warrant</b>	<b>2 -5</b>
<b>(Article 2)</b>	
<b>Issuance of Debt – Wastewater Treatment Facility Phase V upgrade</b>	<b>6-8</b>
<b>(Article 3)</b>	
<b>Petition Warrant Article – Issuance of Debt for Road</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>and Drainage Improvements</b>	
<b>(Article 4)</b>	
<b>2022-23 Proposed Municipal Operating Budget</b>	<b>10 – 14</b>
<b>Proposed 2022 Municipal Property Tax Rate</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Budget Explanation</b>	<b>11 – 13</b>
<b>Default Budget</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>(Article 5)</b>	
<b>General Fund Capital Reserve Fund Deposits</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>(Article 6)</b>	
<b>Wastewater Capital Reserve Fund Deposit</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>(Article 7)</b>	
<b>Collective Bargaining Agreement – Teamsters Local 633</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>(Article 8)</b>	
<b>Proposed Charter Amendment – Trustees of Trust Funds</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Tax Rate Summary</b>	<b>Inside back Cover</b>



2022 Town Warrant  
**Town of Merrimack**  
6 Baboosic Lake Road, Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054



The State of New Hampshire

To the inhabitants of the Town of Merrimack in the County of Hillsborough in said state, qualified to vote in town affairs:

You are hereby notified that the First Session (*Deliberative*) of the Annual Meeting of the Town of Merrimack will be held at the Mastricola Upper Elementary School's All-Purpose Room on 26 Baboosic Lake Road in said Merrimack on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 (snow date Friday, March 11, 2022), at 7:00 o'clock in the evening (pm) for explanation, discussion, and debate of each Warrant Article. Warrant Articles may be amended at this session per RSA 40:13, IV.

You are hereby notified that the Second Session (*Ballot Voting*) of the Annual Meeting of the Town of Merrimack will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at 7:00 o'clock in the forenoon (am) for the choice of town officers elected by official ballot, to vote on questions required by law to be inserted on the Official Ballot, and to vote on all Warrant Articles from the First Session on Official Ballot per RSA 40:13, VII. The polling places for the election of town officers, and other actions required to be inserted on the ballot, will open on said date at 7:00 o'clock in the forenoon (am) and will not close earlier than 7:00 o'clock in the evening (pm).

The three aforementioned polling places will be as follows:

James Mastricola Upper Elementary School All-Purpose Room, 26 Baboosic Lake Road  
St. John Neumann Church, 708 Milford Road (Route 101A)  
Merrimack Middle School, 31 Madeline Bennett Lane

---

### **Article 1**

To choose all necessary town officers for the ensuing year.

Two (2) Town Councilors 3-year term  
One (1) Town Councilors 1-year term  
One (1) Library Trustee for a 3-year term  
Two (2) Ethics Committee Member for a 3-year term  
One (1) Trustee of Trust Funds for a 3-year term  
One (1) Moderator for a 2-year term  
One (1) Supervisor of the Checklist for a 6-year term

---

---

**Article 2**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,102,750 (gross budget) for Waste Water Treatment upgrades to the Wash Water Piping, Compost Facility, Headworks Building and New Screening Building as well as ADA improvements and other miscellaneous upgrades to the main plant, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$10,102,750 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Town Council to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; and to further authorize the Town Council to apply for, obtain and accept any federal, state, or other aid, grants or other funds, that may be made available in conjunction with said purpose that may reduce the amount to be financed with bonds and notes, and to participate in the State Revolving Fund (SRF) RSA 486:14 established for this purpose; and to allow the Town Council to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto.

(Recommended by the Town Council 7-0-0) (3/5th ballot vote required for approval)

---

**Article 3**

(By Petition)

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000,000 (gross budget) for drainage and road repairs to Woodland Drive area (Shady Lane, Evergreen Drive, Glenwood Lane, Deerwood Drive, Birchwood Road, Pinetree Lane, Fernwood Drive, Forest Drive, Hartwood Drive and Timber Lane) and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$3,000,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Town Council to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; and to further authorize the Town Council to apply for, obtain and accept any federal, state, or other aid, grants or other funds, that may be made available in conjunction with said purpose that may reduce the amount to be financed with bonds and notes; and to allow the Town Council to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto and to further raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 for the purpose of 2022-23 interest on said bonds or serial notes?

(by petition) (3/5th ballot vote required for approval)

---

#### Article 4

Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$36,218,840? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$34,355,572, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the Town Council may hold one (1) special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

(Recommended by the Town Council 7-0-0) (Majority vote required.)

---

#### Article 5

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,947,250 to be added to the following Capital Reserve/Expendable Trust Funds previously established for the purposes for which they were created and to apportion the sum among the several funds as listed below:

CRF	Amount to be Deposited
Ambulance	115,000
Communications Equipment	100,000
Computer Equipment	35,000
Daniel Webster Highway	50,000
Fire Equipment	400,000
Highway Equipment	425,000
Library Building Maintenance Fund	75,000
Property Revaluation	17,250
Solid Waste Disposal	100,000
Traffic Signal Pre-emption	5,000
Property Insurance Deductible Trust Fund	10,000
GIS	5,000
Athletic Field CRF	5,000
Road Infrastructure CRF	595,000
Total CRF	1,937,250
Milfoil Expendable Trust Fund	10,000
Total General Fund Deposits	1,947,250

These appropriations are **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article 4.

(Recommended by the Town Council 7-0-0) (Majority vote required.)

## Article 6

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500,000 to be added to the Sewer Infrastructure Capital Reserve Fund previously established with said amount to come from sewer fees and no amount to come from taxation.

(Recommended by the Town Council 7-0-0) (Majority vote required.)

---

## Article 7

Shall the Town of Merrimack vote to approve the cost items included in a collective bargaining agreement reached between the Merrimack Town Council and the Teamsters, Local 633, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Fiscal Year	Wage Increase	Wage and Benefit Costs
2022-23	2.5%	\$ 49,759
2023-24	3.0%	\$ 35,555

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$49,759, such sum representing the anticipated increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year? This collective bargaining agreement covers supervisory and clerical employees of the Highway, Solid Waste Disposal, Wastewater Treatment, and Equipment Maintenance Divisions of the Public Works Department.

(Recommended by the Town Council 7-0-0) (Majority vote required.)

---

## Article 8

Shall the Town of Merrimack approve the charter amendment reprinted below?

PROPOSED AMENDMENT to Charter Article 6-2 A.

There shall be a board of three (3) Trustees of Trust Funds whose powers and duties are provided by New Hampshire State Law. Trustees of Trust Funds shall be elected at the regular Town election for terms of three (3) years, one (1) Trustee each year. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the Town Council for the unexpired term; **“further, the board may recommend to the Town Council and the Town Council may appoint up to two (2) Alternates Members for a one-year term.”**

# Article 2

## Issuance of Debt – Wastewater Treatment Facility Phase V Upgrade

**Funding for the upgrade comes from sewer user fees, NOT TAXES.**

The Merrimack Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) became operational on May 5, 1970. The WWTF was the first treatment plant on the Merrimack River providing advanced treatment. This upgrade is part of a multi-phased approach that began 3 years ago to replace the remaining 50-year old equipment at the WWTF and provide improved operational efficiencies. In April 2019, the Town's voters approved Phase III of the WWTF upgrades and related debt financing of \$13.1 million. In June 2020, voters approved Phase IV of the WWTF upgrades and related debt financing of \$9.52 million. After this 2020 vote, the Town went out to request bids for both the Phase III and Phase IV upgrades as a single project. Unfortunately, due to the nationwide increases in labor and materials costs that have occurred throughout 2020 and 2021, the bids received were much higher than originally anticipated. As a result, several components of the upgrade program had to be removed in order to keep the project within the combined \$22.62 million funding level approved by the voters. One of the key components that was removed was a new screenings building. The screenings building is needed to remove flushable wipes and larger sized solids that can damage downstream equipment. The remainder of the proposed Phase V improvements include an upgrade to the ventilation system of the Compost Facility, improvements to the wash water system in the Chlorine Building, and renovations to the Headworks Building's administrative spaces, bathrooms and laboratory, as well as ADA

improvements and other miscellaneous upgrades to the main plant. All of these improvements will allow the Town to maintain compliance with State and Federal regulations. Ultimately, this upgrade will provide the Town with continued uninterrupted wastewater treatment service.

Funding for this project will come from a low interest rate loan from the State of NH, Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) State Revolving Loan Fund. In 2021, NHDES announced the availability of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant applications for all Clean Water ARPA Grant offers. The Town of Merrimack submitted an application with the State Revolving Loan Fund and has been pre-approved for a 20% ARPA grant of up to \$2 million to defray the costs of the Phase V upgrades. If the Town is able to take advantage of the \$2 million in ARPA funds, the net loan amount to be repaid would be \$8,102,750.

This warrant article for the Phase V upgrades is for \$10.1 million and will consist of the following:

- Complete the design for the entire project.
- Construction of a new screenings building to remove flushable wipes and other larger sized materials discharged to the sewer system.
- Comprehensive upgrade to the Wash Water Piping, Compost Facility, and Headworks Building, as well as ADA improvements and other miscellaneous upgrades to the main plant.

Pending voter approval, it is anticipated that the Phase V improvements will be put out to bid with construction beginning in the fall of 2022.

- Estimated Tax Rate Impact \$.00



BOND PAYMENT SCHEDULE					
Principal - \$8,102,750					
Term - 20 Years					
Interest Rate - 2.50%					
Year Ending	Principal	Interest	Interest		
<u>June 30</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Balance</u>
2023	-	-	-	-	8,102,750
2024	405,100	101,284	101,284	607,668	7,697,650
2025	405,100	96,221	96,221	597,542	7,292,550
2026	405,100	91,157	91,157	587,414	6,887,450
2027	405,100	86,093	86,093	577,286	6,482,350
2028	405,100	81,029	81,029	567,158	6,077,250
2029	405,100	75,966	75,966	557,032	5,672,150
2030	405,100	70,902	70,902	546,904	5,267,050
2031	405,100	65,838	65,838	536,776	4,861,950
2032	405,100	60,774	60,774	526,648	4,456,850
2033	405,100	55,711	55,711	516,522	4,051,750
2034	405,100	50,647	50,647	506,394	3,646,650
2035	405,100	45,583	45,583	496,266	3,241,550
2036	405,100	40,519	40,519	486,138	2,836,450
2037	405,100	35,456	35,456	476,012	2,431,350
2038	405,100	30,392	30,392	465,884	2,026,250
2039	405,100	25,328	25,328	455,756	1,621,150
2040	405,100	20,264	20,264	445,628	1,216,050
2041	405,100	15,201	15,201	435,502	810,950
2042	405,100	10,137	10,137	425,374	405,850
2043	<u>405,850</u>	<u>5,073</u>	<u>5,073</u>	<u>415,996</u>	-
	8,102,750	1,063,575	1,063,575	10,229,900	

# Article 3

## **Petition Warrant Article – Issuance of Debt for Road and Drainage Improvements**

By petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the Town of Merrimack to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000,000 (gross budget) for drainage and road repairs to the Woodland Drive area (Shady Lane, Evergreen Drive, Glenwood Lane, Deerwood Drive, Birchwood Road, Pinetree Lane, Fernwood Drive, Forest Drive, Hartwood Drive and Timber Lane) and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$3,000,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Town Council to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; and to further authorize the Town Council to apply for, obtain and accept any federal, state, or other aid, grants or other funds, that may be made available in conjunction with said purpose that may reduce the amount to be financed with bonds and notes; and to allow the Town Council to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto and to further raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 for the purpose of 2022-23 interest on said bonds or serial notes.

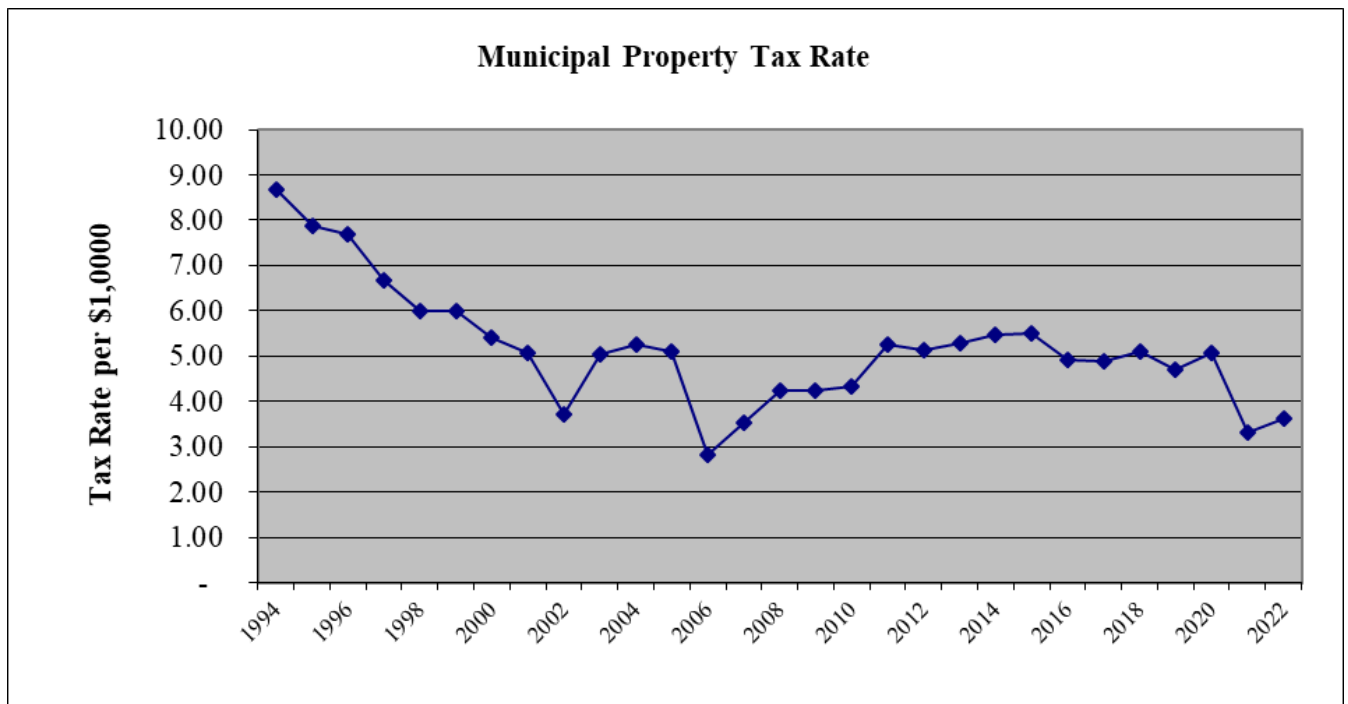
- Estimated Tax Rate Impact \$.01

(60% ballot vote required for approval)

# ARTICLE 4

## Operating Budget

2022 Estimated Tax Rate		
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Appropriations	34,539,495	36,218,840
Estimated revenues	(17,302,264)	(17,809,764)
Tax overlay	375,000	375,000
General Fund surplus:		
Property tax relief	(1,650,000)	(1,350,000)
Veterans exemptions	<u>817,080</u>	<u>817,080</u>
Property tax levy	16,779,311	18,251,156
Valuation for state property tax rate	4,902,353.163	5,034,353.163
Municipal property tax rate	3.42	3.63



## 2022-23 TC Proposed Appropriations

	Total	CRF	Other	Road/Sidewalk	Safer Grant	TC Operating
	Expend.	Deposits	Capital	Infrastr.	Expend.	Request
<b>GENERAL FUND EXP.</b>						
General Government	\$2,169,461	\$55,000				\$2,169,461
Assessing	\$343,919	\$17,250				\$343,919
Fire	\$7,761,553	\$515,000	\$54,000		\$853,082	\$6,854,471
Police	\$7,261,645		\$121,500			\$7,140,145
Communications	\$1,747,778	\$100,000	\$762,764			\$985,014
Code Enforcement	\$494,300					\$494,300
DPW Admin.	\$555,913					\$555,913
Highway	\$4,226,786	\$1,075,000	\$28,000	\$1,160,000		\$3,038,786
Solid Waste Disposal	\$1,742,586	\$100,000				\$1,742,586
Parks & Recreation	\$557,788	\$5,000	\$32,500			\$525,288
Library	\$1,135,728	\$75,000				\$1,135,728
Equipment Maint.	\$495,415					\$495,415
Buildings & Grounds	\$345,141					\$345,141
Community Development	\$531,593	\$5,000	\$7,500			\$524,093
Town Clerk/ Tax Collector	\$648,816					\$648,816
Welfare	\$169,340					\$169,340
Debt Service	\$410,732					\$410,732
Proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement	\$49,754	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$49,754
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$30,648,248</b>	<b>\$1,947,250</b>	<b>\$1,006,264</b>	<b>\$1,160,000</b>	<b>\$853,082</b>	<b>\$27,628,902</b>
				**		
<b>SELF SUPPORTING FUNDS EXP.</b>						
Fire Protection	\$107,718					\$107,718
Outside Details	\$487,004					\$487,004
Library	\$12,000					\$12,000
Fire Outside Detail	\$12,795					\$12,795
Media	\$382,268		\$55,000			\$327,268
Wastewater	\$4,173,506					\$4,173,506
Wastewater Phase V	\$10,102,750					\$10,102,750
Wastewater CRF	\$0	\$500,000				\$0
Wastewater Debt	\$445,055	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$445,055
Subtotal Self Sup. Funds	<b>\$15,723,096</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$15,668,096</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL EXP.</b>	<b>\$46,371,344</b>	<b>\$2,447,250</b>	<b>\$1,061,264</b>	<b>\$1,160,000</b>	<b>\$853,082</b>	<b>\$43,296,998</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$48,818,594</b>				

<b><u>APPROPRIATIONS</u></b>				
			<b>Increase</b>	
<b><u>General Fund Operating</u></b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b><u>(Decrease)</u></b>	
General Government	\$2,140,167	\$2,169,461	<b>\$29,294</b>	1.37%
Assessing	\$339,876	\$343,919	<b>\$4,043</b>	1.19%
Fire	\$7,123,028	\$6,854,471	<b>(\$268,557)</b>	-3.77%
Police	\$7,066,418	\$7,140,145	<b>\$73,727</b>	1.04%
Communications	\$889,964	\$985,014	<b>\$95,050</b>	10.68%
Code Enforcement	\$481,621	\$494,300	<b>\$12,679</b>	2.63%
DPW Admin.	\$551,444	\$555,913	<b>\$4,469</b>	0.81%
Highway	\$2,911,974	\$3,038,786	<b>\$126,812</b>	4.35%
Solid Waste Disposal	\$1,714,772	\$1,742,586	<b>\$27,814</b>	1.62%
Parks & Recreation	\$554,984	\$525,288	<b>(\$29,696)</b>	-5.35%
Library	\$1,125,156	\$1,135,728	<b>\$10,572</b>	0.94%
Equipment Maint.	\$494,088	\$495,415	<b>\$1,327</b>	0.27%
Buildings & Grounds	\$330,175	\$345,141	<b>\$14,966</b>	4.53%
Community Development	\$529,993	\$524,093	<b>(\$5,900)</b>	-1.11%
Town Clerk/ Tax Collector	\$595,723	\$648,816	<b>\$53,093</b>	8.91%
Welfare	\$168,029	\$169,340	<b>\$1,311</b>	0.78%
Debt Service	<u>\$408,662</u>	<u>\$410,732</u>	<u><b>\$2,070</b></u>	<u>0.51%</u>
<b>Subtotal G/F Operating</b>	<b>\$27,426,074</b>	<b>\$27,579,148</b>	<b>\$153,074</b>	0.56%
			<b>Increase</b>	
<b><u>Other Capital</u></b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b><u>(Decrease)</u></b>	
Parks & Recreation - Roofs	\$0	\$32,500	<b>\$32,500</b>	100.00%
Community Devel. - Plan Cabinet	\$0	\$7,500	<b>\$7,500</b>	100.00%
Communications - 800MHZ upgrade	\$0	\$762,764	<b>\$762,764</b>	100.00%
Fire - Mobile Radios	\$17,800	\$54,000	<b>\$36,200</b>	203.37%
Highway Equipment	\$31,000	\$0	<b>(\$31,000)</b>	-100.00%
Highway - Base Radio Syestem	\$0	\$28,000	<b>\$28,000</b>	100.00%
Police- Vehicles	<u>\$100,500</u>	<u>\$121,500</u>	<u><b>\$21,000</b></u>	<u>20.90%</u>
<b>Subtotal Other Cap.</b>	<b>\$149,300</b>	<b>\$1,006,264</b>	<b>\$856,964</b>	573.99%
<b>Road Infrastructure</b>	<b>\$1,240,000</b>	<b>\$1,160,000</b>	<b>(\$80,000)</b>	-6.45%
<b>GF Totals Before Safer Expend.</b>	<b>\$28,815,374</b>	<b>\$29,745,412</b>	<b>\$930,038</b>	3.23%
<b>Safer Grant</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$853,082</b>	<b>\$853,082</b>	100.00%
			<b>Increase</b>	
	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b><u>(Decrease)</u></b>	
<b>General Fund Totals</b>	<b>\$28,815,374</b>	<b>\$30,598,494</b>	<b>\$1,783,120</b>	6.19%
<b><u>Self Supporting Funds</u></b>				
Fire Protection	\$102,589	\$107,718	\$5,129	5.00%
Outside Details	\$481,754	\$487,004	\$5,250	1.09%
Library	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$0	0.00%
Fire Outside Detail	\$12,795	\$12,795	\$0	0.00%
Media	\$330,460	\$382,268	\$51,808	15.68%
Wastewater	\$4,064,567	\$4,173,506	\$108,939	2.68%
Wastewater Debt	<u>\$719,956</u>	<u>\$445,055</u>	<u><b>(\$274,901)</b></u>	<u>-38.18%</u>
<b>Subtotal Self Sup. Funds</b>	<u><b>\$5,724,121</b></u>	<u><b>\$5,620,346</b></u>	<u><b>(\$103,775)</b></u>	<u>-1.81%</u>
<b>Grand Totals All Funds</b>	<b>\$34,539,495</b>	<b>\$36,218,840</b>	<b>\$1,679,345</b>	4.86%

**2022-23 BUDGET**

		Actual	Budget	Department	Town Manager	Council	Voted	Increase (decrease)	
Dept		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2022-23	2022-23	2022-23	Amount	%
01	General Government	2,285,197	2,140,167	2,129,981	2,129,981	2,169,461	-	29,294	1.37
02	Assessing	304,095	339,876	340,070	340,070	343,919	-	4,043	1.19
03	Fire	6,761,864	7,140,828	7,788,472	7,779,672	7,761,553	-	620,725	8.69
04	Police	6,262,301	7,166,918	7,373,479	7,280,518	7,261,645	-	94,727	1.32
05	Communications	855,425	889,964	1,051,264	1,814,028	1,747,778	-	857,814	96.39
06	Code Enforcement	430,165	481,621	488,571	488,571	494,300	-	12,679	2.63
07	Public Works Administration	477,873	551,444	547,581	547,581	555,913	-	4,469	0.81
08	Highway	3,818,216	4,182,974	4,538,849	4,235,849	4,226,786	-	43,812	1.05
09	Solid Waste Disposal	1,651,426	1,714,772	1,877,586	1,755,586	1,742,586	-	27,814	1.62
13	Parks & Recreation	443,178	554,984	618,547	555,047	557,788	-	2,804	0.51
15	Library	1,109,820	1,125,156	1,135,728	1,135,728	1,135,728	-	10,572	0.94
16	Equipment Maintenance	452,220	494,088	497,915	497,915	495,415	-	1,327	0.27
17	Buildings & Grounds	448,679	330,175	502,114	342,114	345,141	-	14,966	4.53
21	Community Development	512,207	529,993	524,305	524,305	531,593	-	1,600	0.30
24	Town Clerk/Tax Collector	572,775	595,723	678,751	598,007	648,816	-	53,093	8.91
25	Welfare	147,723	168,029	168,225	168,225	169,340	-	1,311	0.78
27	Debt Service	415,035	408,662	410,731	410,732	410,732	-	2,070	0.51
	Sub Total	26,948,199	28,815,374	30,672,169	30,603,929	30,598,494	-	1,783,120	6.19%
20-03	Outside Detail - Fire	191	12,795	12,795	12,795	12,795	-	-	-
20-04	Outside Detail - Police	400,120	481,754	487,004	487,004	487,004	-	5,250	1.09
38-15	Library	5,311	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	-	-	-
45-45	Capital Project Fund	7,876	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-13	Day Camp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	27,361,697	29,321,923	31,183,968	31,115,728	31,110,293	-	1,788,370	6.10
10	Wastewater Treatment	3,638,560	4,064,567	4,198,912	4,179,578	4,173,506	-	108,939	2.68
27	Debt Service	788,295	719,956	445,055	445,055	445,055	-	(274,901)	(38.18)
43	WWTF Bond Phase III & IV	919,676	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.00
	Sewer Fund Total	5,346,531	4,784,523	4,643,967	4,624,633	4,618,561	-	(165,962)	(3.47)
32	CATV Fund	328,938	330,460	378,926	378,926	382,268	-	51,808	15.68
33	Fire Protection Area Fund	99,487	102,589	107,718	107,718	107,718	-	5,129	5.00
	Grand Total	33,136,653	34,539,495	36,314,579	36,227,005	36,218,840	-	1,679,345	4.86

Default Calculations				
	2021-22	2022-23		
	<u>Voted Budget</u>	<u>Default Budget</u>		
General Town operations and charges - Article 2	34,539,495	34,539,495		
<b>Union Contracts:</b>				
NEPBA 112 (article 6 2020-21)		12,013		Union Contracts from 2020 Warrant
AFSCME 3657 (article 9 2019-20)		33,952		Union Contracts from 2019 Warrant
IAFF 2904 (article 7 2019-20)		81,689		Union Contracts from 2019 Warrant
NEPBA 12 (article 7 2020-21)		96,061		Union Contracts from 2020 Warrant
<b>Union Contract Benefit Increases (decreases) {2022-23}</b>				
Health Insurance		(70,500)		-0.7 % decrease in Health insurance
NHRS Increase (2021)		6,509		
Workers Comp		1,384		9.7% NTE
<b>One Time Purchases (2021-22)</b>				
One Time Capital Expenses		(72,200)		Flail mower/dock replacement/office ADA
<b>Debt service:</b>				
2021-22		(1,128,618)		Debt payment 2021-22
2022-23	-	855,787		Debt payment 2022-23
Total	34,539,495	34,355,572		
<b>2021-22 Default Tax Rate Comparison</b>				
		Est. Default		
		<u>2021 Tax Rate</u>		
Default Appropriations		34,355,572		Default Budget from above
Estimated Default Revenues (see below)		(17,809,764)		2022-23 projected revenues
Use of Fund balance				
Tax overlay		375,000		
Veterans exemptions		817,080		
Property tax levy		17,737,888		
Valuation for property tax rate		5,034,353.163		
Default property tax rate		3.52		
Proposed Budget tax rate		3.63		
Variance			(0.11)	Difference in tax rate
<b>Revenue comparison:</b>				
2022-23 revenue Proposed Budget	(19,159,764)			Projected revenue for 2022-23
Less:				
Use of Fund balance	1,350,000			
		(17,809,764)		
<b>Appropriation Comparison</b>				
2022-23 Proposed Budget Comparison		36,218,840		Approved by Council
Default Budget (from above)		34,355,572		
Decrease in appropriations (default verses proposed budget)		(1,863,268)		
Tax Rate variance Appropriations		(0.38)		
Tax Rate variance Revenue (Use of Fund Balance)		0.27		
Overall tax rate variance		(0.11)		

# Article 5

## General Fund Deposits into Capital Reserve Funds

These are deposits into General Fund Capital Reserve Funds (CRF) that in prior years had been included in the Operating Budget. There was a change last year to RSA 35-5 that states we need to have a separate warrant article from the operating budget for CRF deposits. The chart below shows a comparison from the 2021-22 budget to the 2022-23 proposed budget.

2022-23 Proposed Capital Reserve Deposits					
	2021-22	EST. 2022-23		\$\$ Diff	% Diff
Liability Trust Fund	10,000	10,000		-	0.00%
Ambulance	100,000	115,000		15,000	15.00%
Communications Equipment	100,000	100,000		-	0.00%
Computer Equipment	35,000	35,000		-	0.00%
Daniel Webster Highway	50,000	50,000		-	0.00%
Fire Equipment	400,000	400,000		-	0.00%
Highway Equipment	400,000	425,000		25,000	6.25%
Library Building Maintenance Fund	75,000	75,000		-	0.00%
Property Revaluation	15,000	17,250		2,250	15.00%
Solid Waste Disposal	125,000	100,000		(25,000)	-20.00%
Traffic Signal Pre-emption	5,000	5,000		-	0.00%
GIS	5,000	5,000		-	0.00%
Road Infrastructure CRF	545,000	595,000		50,000	9.17%
Atheletic Fields CRF	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total CRF	1,870,000	1,937,250		67,250	3.60%
Milfoil	10,000	10,000		-	0.00%
Total GENERAL FUND	1,880,000	1,947,250		67,250	3.58%

- Estimated Tax Rate Impact \$.39



# Article 6

## Sewer Fund Deposits into Capital Reserve Funds

Like Article 5, Article 6 is the Sewer Fund (Wastewater Treatment Plant) deposit into the Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) that in prior years had been included in the Operating Budget. There was a change last year to RSA 35-5 that states we need to have a separate warrant article from the operating budget for CRF deposits. The chart below shows a comparison from the 2021-22 budget to the 2022-23 proposed budget.

2022-23 Proposed Capital Reserve Deposits					
	2021-22	EST. 2022-23		\$\$ Diff	% Diff
				-	
Sewer Infrastructure Improvements	<u>500,000</u>	<u>500,000</u>		<u>-</u>	0.00%

- Estimated Tax Rate Impact \$.00

# Article 7

## Teamsters, Local 633, Collective Bargaining Agreement

The following shows the items agreed to:

**1. Duration:**

2-year contract – July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024

**2. Wages:** 2.5% wage increase in Year 1 of the contract.

3.0% wage increase in Year 2 of the contract.

In addition, all union members will receive an increase to their base hourly rate of \$0.48 per hour for the first full pay period upon the inception of the contract.

**3. Life Insurance:** – Benefit change for spouse increased from \$1,000 to \$10,000 and children benefit increased from \$500 to \$5,000.

**4. Holiday On-Call:** - Employees will be paid an extra 2 hours at 1.0 times their base hourly rate for each observed Holiday that the employee is required to be on-call.

**5. Safety Glasses Allowance:** The Town will provide an allowance up to \$125.00 for certain employees for approved prescription safety glasses once every 3 years.

- Estimated Tax Rate Impact \$.01

# Article 8

## **Proposed Charter Amendment – Trustees of Trust Funds**

The Trustees of the Trust Funds is a 3-member Board elected by the Town's voters to oversee the Town's Capital Reserve Funds and other Permanent Funds given to the Town for specific purposes. Currently the Town's Charter does not provide for any Alternate Members to act in place of the elected Trustees in the event that any of them are unavailable, incapacitated, or pass away, as was the case in the past year with the unfortunate passing of long-time Trustee, Jack Balcom. As a 3-member Board it can be difficult to function when one or more members are unavailable for any reason. Accordingly, the Town Council believes it would be prudent to amend the Charter to allow for the appointment of up to two Alternate Members. Such Alternate Members would be appointed by the Town Council for one-year terms and would only be eligible to vote on business of the Trustees in the event that one or more of the elected members was unavailable.

- Estimated Tax Rate Impact \$.00

## **Tax Rate Summary:**

Article 2	Issuance of Debt - WWTF	\$0.00
Article 3 (by petition)	Issuance of Debt – Road/Drainage	\$0.01
Article 4	Operating Budget	\$3.63
Articles 5&6	Deposits into CRF	\$0.39
Article 7	Teamsters Collective Bargaining Agreement	\$0.01
Article 8	Proposed Charter Amendment	<u>\$0.00</u>
Projected 2022 Tax Rate		\$4.04
2021 Tax Rate		\$3.82

In summary if all the 2022 Warrant Articles pass the Tax Rate for the Municipality's portion will be an increase of \$0.22 over the 2021 Tax Rate.

## **IMPORTANT TOWN MEETING INFORMATION**

Merrimack operates under the Official Ballot Law. If you have any questions, please call the Town Council's Office at 424-2331.

### **Session I: Deliberative Meeting**

This meeting is very important!!! It is not merely a public hearing; it is a session where every money article, and most others, can be amended. For example, a warrant article for \$50,000 can be amended to read \$1 or \$250,000. Similarly, an article on the town warrant can be amended to alter its purpose and effect so long as the amendment does not delete the entire subject matter of the article. Yes, even petitioned warrant articles can be amended at this session.

It is the results of this meeting that will be on the Official Ballot, not the recommendations of the Town Council.

#### **Town Meeting Deliberative Session:**

Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 7:00 p.m.  
Mastricola Upper Elementary School  
All-Purpose Room.

### **Session II: Ballot Vote**

**Any voter will be able to vote for all warrant** articles, as amended at Session I. Please be aware that, since the entire text of any proposed ordinances will appear on the ballot, the ballot may be quite long. Sample ballots will be available before Session II. Absentee ballots will be available for this session for those who qualify. If the budget fails, the governing body may call a special meeting to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only (not other warrant articles). This would entail Session I and Session II, just as before. If the operating budget is again defeated, the default budget becomes the official budget for the year.

#### **Town Meeting Voting Session:**

**Tuesday, April 12, 2022**

**Voting 7:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m.**

**Locations- James Mastricola Upper Elementary School All-Purpose Room, 26 Baboosic Lake Road  
St. John Neumann Church, 708 Milford Road (Route 101A)  
Merrimack Middle School, 31 Madeline Bennett Lane**

